**Textile Export**

1998. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether European countries have imposed ban on import of textiles in which azo dyes have been used; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to tackle with this problem and the problems related to the textile import quota under multifibre arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). The German Government has enacted a legislation banning the use of certain azo dyes and chemicals in textile products put up for sale in Germany.

In the context of German Government's legislation, the Government of India has initiated steps to review the related dyes and to identify alternate permissible dyes so as to maintain the tempo of exports. Besides, the Government have been taking a number of steps to promote production of eco-friendly textiles, such as, providing assistance for setting up eco-testing facilities at major production centres, dissemination of information regarding ecologically safe dyes and chemicals through seminars/workshops and distribution of publicity materials.

The German ban on azo dyes is not linked with the textile import quota regime stipulated under the Indo-EC textile agreement.

**Appointment of Notaries**

1999. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have fixed any minimum qualifications for appointment of Notaries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Notaries appointed by the Government so far in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b). The qualifications for being appointed to the office of Notary are specified in the Notaries Act, 1952 and the rules made thereunder.

(c) As on 1.1.96, the Central Government have appointed 574 Notaries for the whole country and the State-wise break-up of Notaries is as follows :

| S.No. | Name of State/UT | No. of Notaries |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 08 |
| 2. | Bihar | 05 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 27 |
| 4. | Haryana | 55 |
| 5. | Karnataka | 42 |
| 6. | Kerala | 02 |
| 7. | Maharashtra | 64 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 04 |
| 9. | Orissa | 02 |
| 10. | Punjab | 57 |
| 11. | Rajasthan | 71 |
| 12. | Tamil Nadu | 11 |
| 13. | Tripura | 01 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 58 |
| 15. | West Bengal | 64 |
| 16. | Delhi | 69 |
| 17. | Chandigarh | 01 |
| 18. | Entitled to practice in whole of India | 33 |
| | Total | 574 |

**Subsidy on Agriculutral Exports by APEDA**

2000. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidies or export support given to agricultural exporters by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the areas where subsidies were given;

(c) whether any case of misuse of subsidies has come to the notice of APEDA during the above period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a Commodity Board under the Ministry of Commerce is extending financial assistance at the prescribed scale to the exporters of those products which are included in the Schedule to the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, in the following areas:

(i) For development of infrastructural facilities such as:

(a) Purchase of specialised transport units;

(b) Establishment of pre-cooling facilities;

(c) Setting up of mechanised post harvest handling facilities and sheds for grading, sorting, quality control and packaging;

(ii) Development of overseas markets through brand promotion, publicity and participation in Intrernational Trade Fairs abroad;

(iii) Conduct of feasibility studies with respect to products, infrastructure requirements;

(iv) Upgradation of technical skills of supervisory, technical and managerial personnel of growers and manufacturers - exporters through training in India.

(v) Research and development to be conducted by the research institutions as a part of the export enhancement efforts;

(vi) Air Freight subsidy for exports by air of certain horticultural, floricultural and selected vegetables to specified destinations.

The amount of financial assistance provided by APEDA during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as follows:-

*Rs. in Lakhs*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1993-94 | 511.65 |
| 1994-95 | 615.14 |
| 1995-96 | 675.00 |

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

**Anti-Defection Law**

2001 SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reformulate the anti-defection law;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be reformulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c). The question as to whether an appeallate authority should be provided to hear appeals from the decisions of Presiding Officers is proposed to be discussed by the Government with leaders of various political parties and in case a consensus emerges for making amendments in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, Government would consider bringing forward a bill for the purpose.

**Smuggling of Gold**

2002. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of gold is still going on in the country in spite of the introduction of the liberalised gold policy;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check it; and

(c) the gold seized during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Based on statistics of contraband gold seized and intelligence reports pertaining to smuggling of gold there appears to be a decline in smuggling of gold. However, smuggling of gold is still being noticed and a definite trend regarding quantum of smuggling cannot be stated with certainly due to clandestine nature of smuggling activities.

(b) Measures taken to prevent smuggling of gold into the country include liberalized import of gold since 1992 under passenger baggage scheme to make large quantitites of legally imported gold available for consumption in India, high alert maintained by anti smuggling agencies to detect and prevent smuggling of gold into the country by surveillance over sensitive areas, targeting of intelligence and use of sophisticated equipments like metal detectors, colour baggage X-ray machines etc. in ports and airports.

(c) The value of gold seized during the last three years is as follows:

| Year | Gold Seized (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|
| 1993-94 | 5502 |
| 1994-95 | 5543 |
| 1995-96 | 5087 |

*[Translation]*

**Trade Agreement with Nepal**

2003. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the Indo-Nepal trade ties;

(b) if so, the details of areas selected for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government have signed any new trade agreement with Nepal recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). India and Nepal are both committed to increasing their bilateral trade within the framework of the Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty of 1991. Various aspects bilateral